

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 STATE 045187
ORIGIN SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 R

DRAFTED BY AF/S:RPERRY:DH
APPROVED BY S - PETER TARNOFF
AF-AMB. SCHAUFELE
AF/S:FWISNER
S/S:MR. SEBASTIAN

-----020746 107468 /14

P R 012142Z MAR 77
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY MASERU PRIORITY
INFO AMEMBASSY GABORONE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 045187

EXDIS, FOR AMB NORLAND

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, BC, US

SUBJECT: REPLY TO PRESIDENT KHAMA'S LETTER TO PRESIDENT
CARTER

REF: A) GABORONE 427; B) GABORONE 446 (NODIS)

1. THERE APPEARS TO BE SOME MISUNDERSTANDING OVER POSSIBLE
US MILITARY ASSISTANCE TO BOTSWANA. PRESIDENT FORD
DISCUSSED THE ISSUE IN GENERAL TERMS WITH PRESIDENT KHAMA
DURING HIS JUNE 1976 VISIT TO WASHINGTON. THE PREVIOUS
ADMINISTRATION MADE NO COMMITMENTS AT THAT TIME, AND
DID NOT DECIDE TO PURSUE A MILITARY ASSISTANCE PROGRAM
FOR BOTSWANA IN THE INTERVENING MONTHS.

2. WE APPRECIATE BOTSWANA'S CONCERN FOR ITS SECURITY
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 STATE 045187

AND RECOGNIZE THAT IT HAS RECEIVED SOME ASSISTANCE FROM
THE UK AS WELL AS OTHER SOURCES. AS OUR RESPONSE TO THE
DANGERS WE SEE IN SOUTHERN AFRICA, WE HAVE PUT EMPHASIS ON
OUR DIPLOMATIC INITIATIVE TO ACHIEVE NEGOTIATED SOLUTIONS
TO THE PROBLEMS OF THE REGION. WE BELIEVE THAT THIS
EFFORT OFFERS A PROMISING WAY TO REDUCE THE DANGERS TO
BOTSWANA AND OTHER COUNTRIES. NO PROGRAM FOR BOTSWANA

IS PRESENTLY BEING CONSIDERED.

3. IN ANY CASE, AN INTERAGENCY REVIEW OF US MILITARY ASSISTANCE AND SALES PROGRAMS IS NOW BEING CONDUCTED. NO REPEAT NO NEW PROGRAMS WILL BE CONSIDERED UNTIL THE REVIEW IS COMPLETE. YOU SHOULD GIVE THE BOTSWANAN GOVERNMENT NO ENCOURAGEMENT THAT ARMS ASSISTANCE FROM THE UNITED STATES IS A LIKELY POSSIBILITY.

4. IF YOU BELIEVE IT APPROPRIATE, YOU MAY WISH TO ADVISE THE FOREIGN MIN OR ANOTHER OFFICIAL AT AN APPROPRIATE LEVEL OF THE POINTS IN PARAS 1 AND 2 ABOVE IN CONTEXT OF DELIVERING FOLLOWING ORAL MESSAGE WHICH CONSTITUTES REPLY TO REF (B).

5. QTE: THE PRESIDENT HAS ASKED ME TO THANK YOU FOR YOUR LETTER OF FEBRUARY 18. WE SHARE YOUR CONCERN FOR THE NEED FOR A NEGOTIATED SETTLEMENT IN RHODESIA. WE ARE FULLY AWARE OF THE DISASTROUS CONSEQUENCES FOR ALL THE PEOPLE OF SOUTHERN AFRICA AND WORLD PEACE IF NEGOTIATED SOLUTIONS ARE NOT FOUND AND WARFARE IN THE REGION ESCALATES. WE RECOGNIZE THE ECONOMIC AND POLITICAL PRESSURES ON BOTSWANA STEMMING FROM THE WAR IN RHODESIA AND DISTURBANCES IN SOUTH AFRICA AND WE ARE FOLLOWING CLOSELY AND SYMPATHETICALLY THE SITUATION YOU FACE. FOR THIS REASON, WE PLAN TO CONTINUE TO OFFER OUR ASSISTANCE AND USE OUR INFLUENCE TO HELP THE PARTIES CONCERNED TO NEGOTIATE A PEACEFUL SETTLEMENT OF THE RHODESIAN PROBLEM. AS YOU ARE AWARE WE HAVE BEEN IN CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 STATE 045187

CONSULTATIONS WITH THE BRITISH THIS WEEK AND HAVE SOUGHT SOUTH AFRICAN VIEWS AS WELL AS HOW TO RELAUNCH THE NEGOTIATIONS.

6. WE WANT TO STAY IN CLOSE TOUCH WITH YOU AS WE WORK TOGETHER TOWARDS A RHODESIAN SETTLEMENT AND SEEK PEACE IN THE REGION. UNQTE.
VANCE

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: POLITICAL SETTLEMENT, DIPLOMATIC COMMUNICATIONS, MILITARY ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 01-Mar-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 22 May 2009
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977STATE045187
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: RPERRY:DH
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770071-0460
Format: TEL
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions:
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t197703104/aaaadnwx.tel
Line Count: 105
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 048212ad-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ORIGIN SS
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Reference: 77 GABORONE 427, 77 GABORONE 446
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 07-Feb-2005 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2947814
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: REPLY TO PRESIDENT KHAMA'S LETTER TO PRESIDENT CARTER
TAGS: PFOR, PPDC, BC, US, RH, (KHAMA, SERETSE M), (CARTER, JIMMY)
To: MASERU
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/048212ad-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009